Promotions in IAF

4601. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated the 7th July, 1998, under the caption "IAF Promotions-Defence Ministry continues to mislead PMO"; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) The press report was factually incorrect. The correct position in detail has been reported to the Prime Minister's Office.

Private Flats Occupied by Navy and Army

4602. SHRI RAMJI LAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of private flats occupied by Navy and Army, separately, in Bombay in respect of which the valid lease period had expired more than 15 years back;

(b) the reasons for not de-hiring these flats after the expiry of the lease period; and

(c) the number and details of representations received in this regard and the details of directives/orders issued by Government in this respect and the present status of these flats?

THE MINISTER OF DEFFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per information available private flats hired/leased where leases have expired more than 15 years ago in 30 in the case of Navy and 85 in the case of Army. The balance 125 hired flats by the Navy and 66 by the army have been hired without any agreement being executed. Most of these flats have been taken on lease between 1941-42.

(b) These flats could nto be dehired due to shortage of Government owned accommodation for service personnel at Bombay.

(c) Majority of these house owners have been representing for dehiring of their flats Government has laid down a policy that 10% of number of flats newly constructed or hired will be dehired according to the date of initial hiring.

CSD Melas

4603. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the small scale vendors of CSD are directed to participate in Melas organised by Canteen Stores Department;

(b) is it a fact that the participants are forced to pay huge expenses;

(c) the ndumber of Melas held every year;

(d) whether forcible participation by small and medium size units will be stopped; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) As per policy of the Canteen Stores Departments (CSD), suppliers are required to provide After-Sales Service to the consumers, particularly in the field of electrical/electronic items. The vendors are requested by the CSD to participate in such Melas with this objective in view.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Each Area Depot is expected to organise 2 such Melas, every year.

(d) and (e) As explained in (a) above, there is no forcible participation in the After-Sales Service Melas.

Construction of Float Assembly in OPF

4604. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of Float Assembly (KM) has been delayed